

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A burial container for containing a body comprising:  
a container body defining an enclosure and an upper opening through which a body may be placed into the enclosure;  
a lower panel having an opening formed therein to permit communication of earth into the enclosure.
2. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 1 further comprising a removable lid for the upper opening.
3. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 2 wherein the lid is provided with a lifting eye.
4. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 3 wherein the lifting eye is formed of stainless steel.
5. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 1 wherein the container body is made of concrete.
6. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 5 wherein the container body includes reinforcing steel.

7. (Previously presented) A burial container for burying a body comprising:  
a container body having four side panels that define an enclosure and a top opening;  
a lower panel affixed to the four side panels and having a central opening therein to permit communication of earth into the enclosure; and  
a removable lid for closing the top opening.
8. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 7 wherein the container body and lid are fashioned of steel reinforced concrete.
9. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 7 further comprising a plurality of rust-resistant lifting eyes secured to the lid to permit lifting of the lid from the container body.
10. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 7 further comprising a peripheral lip on the lid for engagement of the top opening when the lid is placed on the container body.
11. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 7 further comprising an indentation in the lid for reduction of weight.
12. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 7 wherein the lower panel provides a shelf surrounding the central opening.

13-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A burial container for burying a body comprising:
- a container body having four side panels that define an enclosure and a top opening;
- a lower panel affixed to the four side panels and having[:]~~a central an~~ opening therein that is shaped and sized to permit direct communication between a body in the enclosure and earth beneath the container body to permit communication of earth into the enclosure;
- ~~— and~~
- ~~a shelf surrounding the central opening.~~
22. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 21 further comprising a removable lid for closing the top opening.
23. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 22 wherein the container body and lid are fashioned of steel reinforced concrete.
24. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 22 further comprising a plurality of rust-resistant lifting eyes secured to the lid to permit lifting of the lid from the container body.

25. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 22 further comprising a peripheral lip on the lid for engagement of the top opening when the lid is placed on the container body.

26. (Previously presented) The burial container of claim 22 further comprising an indentation in the lid for reduction of weight.